

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE DIVISION

MARTIN TUTSCHEK, Derivatively on
Behalf of COCRYSTAL PHARMA, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

RAYMOND F. SCHINAZI, GARY WILCOX,
PHILLIP FROST, JANE HSIAO, STEVE
RUBIN, DAVID S. BLOCK, ELLIOT
MITCHELL MAZA, JEFFREY MECKLER,
BRIAN KELLER, TODD BRADY, BARRY
HONIG, MICHAEL BRAUSER, JOHN
STETSON, and JOHN O'ROURKE,

Defendants,

and

COCRYSTAL PHARMA, INC.,

Nominal Defendant.

No. 19-01775

VERIFIED STOCKHOLDER
DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Martin Tutschek, through his undersigned attorneys, brings this derivative action on behalf of Nominal Defendant Cocrysal Pharma, Inc. ("Cocrysal" or the "Company") against Cocrysal's current and former officers and directors, and against Barry Honig ("Honig"), Michael

1 Brauser (“Brauser”), John Stetson (“Stetson”), and John O’Rourke (“O’Rourke”) (collectively, the
2 “Honig Group”), controlling stockholders of Cocystal. Plaintiff alleges the following upon
3 personal knowledge with respect to himself and his own acts, and as to all other matters upon
4 information and belief, based upon the substantial investigation of his counsel, including, among
5 other things, an analysis of: (i) the Company’s filings with the United States Securities and
6 Exchange Commission (“SEC”); (ii) an action brought by the SEC against Phillip Frost (“Frost”),
7 OPKO Health, Inc. (“OPKO”), a publicly traded healthcare company purportedly involved in the
8 discovery, development and commercialization of proprietary pharmaceutical products, medical
9 devices, vaccines, diagnostic technologies and imaging systems, Frost Gamma Investments Trust
10 (“FGIT”), which is controlled by Frost and shares its principal place of business with OPKO,
11 Southern Biotech, Inc. (“Southern Biotech”), as well as Honig, O’Rourke, and Brauser, for
12 engaging in three illegal pump-and-dump schemes (the “SEC Action” or “SEC Complaint”), in
13 litigation captioned *SEC v. Honig, et al.*, No. 18-8175 (S.D.N.Y.) (First Amended Complaint filed
14 March 8, 2019); (iii) a securities class action brought in the United States District Court of New
15 Jersey captioned *Pepe v. Cocystal Pharma, Inc. F/K/A/ BioZone Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, No. 2:18-
16 CV-14091 (Complaint filed September 20, 2018), brought on behalf of purchasers of Cocystal
17 stock between September 23, 2013 and September 7, 2018; and (v) an action brought in the
18 Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, captioned *MabVax Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.*
19 *v. Honig, et al.*, Case No. 37-2019-00018398 (complaint filed April 8, 2019), alleging claims for
20 unlawful market manipulation, unlawful business practices, fraud, breach of fiduciary duties, and
21 other claims associated with misconduct regarding MabVax Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.
22 (“MabVax”).
23
24
25
26
27
28

NATURE OF ACTION

1
2 1. Cocystal’s current and former directors and officers (the “Cocystal Defendants”) have breached their fiduciary duties of loyalty, good faith, due care, and candor to the Company and
3 its shareholders by colluding from at least September 2013 through March 2019 (the “relevant
4 period”) to benefit themselves to the detriment of the Company through a protracted and complex
5 web of transactions encompassing numerous violations of the federal securities laws.
6

7 2. Cocystal was originally a privately-held company named BioZone Laboratories,
8 Inc. (“BioZone Labs”). Later, it was incorporated in Nevada under the name BioZone
9 Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“BioZone”), and finally reincorporated in Delaware as Cocystal, after
10 undergoing a reverse merger with Cocystal Discovery, Inc. (“Cocystal Discovery”), a shell
11 corporation managed by Defendant Honig, as part and parcel of a “pump-and-dump” scheme.
12

13 3. The original BioZone Labs attracted the attention of Defendant Frost, who, as Chief
14 Executive Officer (“CEO”) of OPKO and an investor in several drug therapy companies, had a
15 seemingly strong interest in BioZone Labs’ products.
16

17 4. Defendant Frost, together with Honig and Brauser, convinced the co-founders of
18 BioZone Labs, Defendant Brian Keller (“Keller”) and non-party Daniel Fisher (“Fisher”), to take
19 BioZone Labs public as a means to generate increased capital to further the company’s research and
20 development efforts. To incentivize Fisher and Defendant Keller, they were promised between \$8
21 and \$15 million in investment capital, along with equity stakes in the new company, and a
22 guarantee of continued employment. However, after BioZone Labs was taken public through the
23 reverse merger, the business was placed under the control of Defendant Elliot Mitchell Maza
24 (“Maza”), a close business associate of Honig.
25

26 5. BioZone Labs was renamed BioZone, and, soon after, Defendants Frost, Honig, and
27 Brauser, in concert with Defendants Maza and Keller, orchestrated a plan to artificially inflate
28

1 BioZone's stock price and sell their accumulated shares at a significant profit. With the assistance
2 of O'Rourke and a stock promoter, John Ford ("Ford"), Defendant Frost and his associates
3 successfully manipulated BioZone's stock price by arranging undisclosed stock promotions and
4 deceptively increasing the trading volume of BioZone's stock. As a result, BioZone's stock price
5 more than doubled, despite the lack of improvement in the Company's fundamentals. To the
6 contrary, by virtue of BioZone's default on a bank credit line connected with the reverse merger, as
7 more fully addressed below, the Company was laden with additional debt and its equity was further
8 diluted as part of the refinancing adopted to bail out of the default, further deteriorating the financial
9 and operational prospects of the company.

11 6. After Frost and his associates reaped large profits by selling their shares at artificially
12 inflated prices, they carried out the reverse merger through which BioZone became Cocystal. The
13 merger was then executed by combining BioZone with Cocystal Discovery, with which Frost was
14 closely affiliated.

16 7. As a result of the foregoing, Cocystal must now expend millions of dollars to defend
17 itself in a pending securities class action lawsuit. This damage is compounded by the Company's
18 prior payment of millions of dollars to Maza and Keller who were unjustly enriched while engaging
19 in the pump-and-dump scheme and/or the concealment of that scheme.

21 8. The Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by engaging in the misconduct
22 alleged herein. As a direct and proximate result of those breaches of fiduciary duties, Cocystal has
23 sustained material damages. Plaintiff has brought this action derivatively on behalf of Cocystal to
24 recover those damages. Plaintiff made no demand upon the Cocystal Board of Directors prior to
25 initiating this lawsuit since it would have been a useless and futile act. The Cocystal Board faces a
26 substantial likelihood of liability for their breaches of fiduciary duties and other misconduct and as
27 such lacks the required disinterest and independence to fairly consider such a demand.

VENUE AND JURISDICTION

9. The Court has jurisdiction over the causes of action asserted under Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), and Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder by the SEC, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act. Supplemental Jurisdiction over the remaining claims exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. This action is not a collusive action designed to confer jurisdiction on a court of the United States that it would not otherwise have.

10. This Court has jurisdiction over each Defendant named herein because each Defendant is either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations in this District, or is an individual who has sufficient minimum contacts with this District to render the exercise of jurisdiction by the District courts permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

11. Venue is proper in this Court in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) because: (i) Cocrysal maintains its principal place of business in this District; (ii) one or more of the Defendants either resides in or maintains executive offices in the District; (iii) a substantial portion of the transactions and wrongs complained of herein, including the Defendants’ primary participation in the wrongful acts detailed herein, and aiding and abetting and conspiracy in violation of fiduciary duties owed to Cocrysal, occurred in this District; and (iv) Defendants have received substantial compensation in this District by doing business here and engaging in numerous activities that had an effect in this District.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff Martin Tutschek is a long term and current owner of Cocrysal common stock, owned Cocrysal common stock at the time of the transactions complained of, and has continuously owned such shares since 2013.

13. Nominal Defendant Cocystal is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business and executive offices at 19805 North Creek Parkway, Bothell, Washington. Cocystal's main business is the research, discovery and development of novel antiviral therapeutics targeting the replication machinery of the hepatitis, influenza, and noroviruses. Its stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market ("NASDAQ") under the ticker symbol "COC.P."

14. Defendant Raymond F. Schinazi ("Schinazi") was a member of the Cocystal Board of Directors (the "Board"), having served as Chairman from March 11, 2015 until February 1, 2019, and was a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Schinazi is the Company's "principal shareholder," holding 10,361,985 shares of Cocystal's common stock, or 32.6% of the Company's outstanding shares, as of April 24, 2019, inclusive of 995,593 shares of common stock held through an undisclosed entity he controls and 125,464 vested options. He joined the Board after his company, RFS Pharma, LLC merged with Cocystal in November 2014. He is also a director of Brace Pharma Capital, Inc. ("Brace Pharma"). He has been at Emory University since 1978 and currently serves as the Frances Winship Walters Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology at Emory. During the relevant period, Cocystal paid Schinazi the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards	Total
2015	\$58,000	\$340,802	\$398,802

15. Defendant Gary Wilcox ("Wilcox") is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of Cocystal. He was the Vice Chairman of the Board from the time BioZone merged with Cocystal Discovery (previously serving as Chairman and CEO of Cocystal Discovery). Defendant Wilcox served as the Interim CEO of Cocystal from July 2016 until February 2019.

He previously served as CEO from January 2014 until March 2015. As of April 24, 2019,

Defendant Wilcox owns 564,952 shares of Cocrysal common stock, or 1.8%, and holds rights – expiring on September 20, 2028 – to an additional 200,000 shares through unexercised options with an exercise price of \$2.78 per share. According to the Company’s 2018 Proxy Statement, Defendant Wilcox is not independent under NASDAQ listing rules. During the relevant period, Cocrysal paid Wilcox the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Salary	Option Awards	Total
2014	\$244,960		\$244,960
2015	\$133,487		\$133,487
2016	\$100,643		\$100,643
2017	\$100,643		\$100,643
2018	\$136,952	\$421,400	\$558,352

16. Defendant Frost is a director of Cocrysal since January 2014, and is a member of its Audit Committee. As of April 24, 2019, he owns 3,664,014 shares of the Company’s common stock, or 11.6%, another 3,655,265, or 11.6%, through FGIT, and another 2,659,683 shares, or 11.6%, through OPKO, inclusive of 2,626,350 shares and 33,333 warrants. Upon information and belief, he is the CEO and Chairman of OPKO, prior Chairman of the Board of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Limited (“Teva”), and before that IVAX Corporation (“IVAX”). On December 27, 2018, Frost consented to the entry of judgment against him in the SEC Action, entered by the Court on January 10, 2019, agreeing to pay \$5.5 million in penalties to the SEC, disgorgement of profits, and payment of prejudgment interest. Frost further agreed to a prohibition from buying new penny stocks, as well as restrictions on his sale of penny stocks. During the relevant period, Cocrysal paid Frost the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards	Total
2015	\$27,500	\$340,802	\$368,302
2018		\$105,350	\$105,350

17. Defendant Jane Hsiao (“Hsiao”) is a director of Cocrysal since January 2014, Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating

Committee, and a member of the Compensation Committee. Upon information and belief, Hsiao has an extensive professional relationship with Frost, having worked alongside him as the Vice Chairman and Chief Technical Officer (“CTO”) of OPKO and as Vice Chairman of IVAX from 1995 to January 2006, when IVAX was acquired by Teva. During the relevant period, Cocrystal paid Hsiao the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards	Total
2015	\$35,500	\$340,802	\$376,302
2018		\$105,350	\$105,350

As of April 24, 2019, Hsiao owns 306,479 shares of Cocrystal common stock, or 1.0%, inclusive of 183,221 shares held by Hsu Gamma Investment, L.P. (“HGI”), for which she serves as General Partner, 8,749 vested options, and 350,000 10-year Cocrystal stock options exercisable at \$1.17 per share beginning in April 2016.

18. Defendant Steve Rubin (“Rubin”) is a director of Cocrystal since January 2014, Chairman of the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee, and a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Rubin has a close professional relationship with Frost. He is the Executive Vice President (“EVP”)-Administration and served as a director at OPKO since May 2007. He was formerly Senior Vice President and General Counsel of IVAX. Rubin has also served as an advisor to MabVax, a company in which Frost heavily invested and a named defendant in the SEC Complaint. Rubin was also a director of ChromaDex, Inc. (“ChromaDex”), another company in which Frost’s investment group heavily invested. During the relevant period, Cocrystal paid Rubin the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Feed Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards	Total
2015	\$38,000	\$340,802	\$378,802
2018		\$105,350	\$105,350

Frost also received 350,000 10-year Cocrystal stock options exercisable at \$1.17 per share beginning in April 2016.

19. Defendant David S. Block (“Block”) served as a director of Cocrysal from November 2014 until January 4, 2019. Block was a member of the Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Compensation Committee. In 2015, he received compensation of \$383,802.

20. Defendant Maza was director, CEO, and Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) of BioZone from July 2011 through January 2014. He is a licensed attorney and certified public accountant. In March 2019, he consented to the entry of judgment against him in the SEC Action providing for his permanent bar from: (i) participating in or being a director or officer of any penny stock company; (ii) violating SEC Rule 10b-5; (iii) violating SEC Rule 15d-1; and (iv) violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and allowing the SEC to order the further disgorgement of his ill-gotten gains. Between 2011 and 2013, he was paid over \$1.2 million in compensation and bonuses.

21. Defendant Jeffrey Meckler (“Meckler”) was a director and interim and then permanent CEO of Cocrysal from March 2015 until July 2016. During the relevant period, Cocrysal paid Meckler the following compensation:

Fiscal Year	Salary	Bonus	Option Awards	Total
2015	\$214,504	\$140,325	\$9,016,542	\$9,371,371
2016	\$237,709			\$237,709

22. Defendant Brian Keller (“Keller”) is a co-founder of BioZone Labs. Defendant Keller was the Chief Scientific Officer (“CSO”) of BioZone Labs, a director and a stockholder of the Company from June 2011 through January 2014. He is now the President of Sales and Senior Vice President of Research and Development at Cocrysal. In 2011, 2012, and 2013, he received compensation of \$135,712, \$198,961, and \$198,750, all in salary. In March 2019, he consented to the entry of judgment against him in the SEC Action providing for his permanent bar from: (i) participating in or being a director or officer of any penny stock company; (ii) violating SEC Rule

1 10b-5; (iii) violating SEC Rule 15d-1; and (iv) violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933,
2 and allowing the SEC to order the further disgorgement of his ill-gotten gains.

3 23. Defendant Todd Brady (“Brady”) is a Director of Cocrysal since February 1, 2019,
4 serving on the Company’s Audit Committee, and is a director of Brace Pharma, a position he holds
5 since April 2014.

6 24. Defendant Honig is one of the controlling shareholders of Cocrysal. As of
7 September 2013, Honig personally owned approximately 5.5 million shares of Cocrysal stock, or
8 almost 9% of the Company’s outstanding shares, all of which were acquired through private
9 investments in public equities (“PIPE”) financing, and all of which was restricted stock pursuant to
10 Securities Act Rule 144(a)(3)(i). Between 2011 and 2018, Honig invested alongside Brauser,
11 Stetson and O’Rourke, whether individually or through their controlled entities, in at least 19
12 issuers, one of which being Cocrysal. In violation of the federal securities laws and in breach of
13 his fiduciary duties, Honig sold almost six million shares of the Company’s stock between
14 September 23 and December 16, 2013, for proceeds of almost \$3.5 million, without complying with
15 Securities Act Rule 144(e), which precludes the sale of stock in excess of 1% of the Company’s
16 total outstanding shares in any quarter. On June 17, 2019, Honig consented to the entry of
17 judgment against him in the SEC Action providing for, among other things, his permanent bar from:
18 (i) participating in an offering of any penny stock company, including engaging in activities with a
19 broker, dealer, or issuer for purposes of issuing, trading, or inducing or attempting to induce the
20 purchase or sale of, or holding any beneficial ownership of shares of stock in excess of 4.99% of
21 any penny stock; (ii) promoting, funding, or exercising control over any issuer of penny stock; (iii)
22 violating SEC Rule 10b-5; (iv) violating Sections 5, 9(a)(2) and 13(d) of the Exchange Act; (v)
23 violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933; and (vi) allowing the SEC to order the further
24 disgorgement of his ill-gotten gains and penalties thereon.
25
26
27
28

1 25. Defendant Brauser is one of the controlling shareholders of Cocystal. Between
2 2011 and 2018, Brauser invested alongside Honig, Stetson and O'Rourke, whether individually or
3 through their controlled entities, in at least 19 issuers, one of which being Cocystal. In violation of
4 the federal securities laws and in breach of his fiduciary duties, Brauser and his affiliate sold more
5 than 2.25 million shares of the Company's stock between September 27 and December 23, 2013,
6 for proceeds of more than \$1.25 million.

7 26. Defendant Stetson is one of the controlling shareholders of Cocystal. Between 2011
8 and 2018, Stetson invested alongside Honig, Brauser and O'Rourke, whether individually or
9 through their controlled entities, in at least 19 issuers, including Cocystal. Also, in August and
10 September 2013, Stetson arranged for the deposit into a brokerage account of and the lifting of the
11 restrictions over the restricted shares of Cocystal stock issued to Honig, falsely representing to the
12 brokerage firm that Honig was not affiliated in any way with Cocystal, thereby allowing Honig to
13 circumvent the volume sales restrictions otherwise applicable to affiliates under the federal
14 securities laws. In violation of the federal securities laws and in breach of his fiduciary duties,
15 Stetson and his affiliate sold half a million shares of the Company's stock between September 27
16 and December 18, 2013, for proceeds of almost \$280,000.

17 27. Defendant O'Rourke is one of the controlling shareholders of Cocystal. Between
18 2011 and 2018, O'Rourke invested alongside Honig, Brauser and Stetson, whether individually or
19 through their controlled entities, in at least 19 issuers, one of which being Cocystal. O'Rourke and
20 his affiliated entity, in violation of the federal securities laws and in breach of his fiduciary duties,
21 sold 250,000 shares of the Company's stock between October 4 and December 27, 2013, for an
22 average price of \$0.59 per share for proceeds of \$148,443.68, after having purchased those shares
23 on October 4, 2013, by exercising one of Honig's notes convertible into shares for \$0.20 per share
24 or \$50,000.00, netting a profit of \$98,443.68, a return of almost double the investment, excluding its
25

1 cost, within approximately two months from time of purchase.

2 28. The Defendants named in ¶¶14-23 are referred to herein as the “Cocrystal
3 Defendants.”

4 SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

5 A. The “Pump and Dump” Scheme

6 29. BioZone Labs, then a private biotechnology company manufacturing over-the-
7 counter pharmaceutical products, was founded by Defendant Keller and Fisher, who were
8 developing for market a formulation using a patented technology called “Qusomes.” However,
9 BioZone Labs lacked funding to support the development of this Qusomes formulation.
10

11 30. In late 2010, Honig and Brauser approached Keller and Fisher about taking BioZone
12 Labs public through a reverse merger into a publicly-traded shell company named International Surf
13 Resorts, Inc. (“Surf”), which was controlled by Honig and Brauser through related entities and other
14 individuals in the group. As an inducement, Honig and Brauser promised that as part of the deal,
15 between \$11 and \$13 million of the proceeds from the public offering would be dedicated for
16 research and development (“R&D”) of the Qusomes technology formulation.
17

18 31. In late January and early February 2011, Honig, Brauser and Frost executed a
19 binding letter of intent on behalf of Surf (which was to be renamed BioZone under the letter of
20 intent) with BioZone Labs’ Keller and Fisher committing to: (i) the reverse merger proposal; (ii)
21 Keller and Fisher to be paid 6,650,000 shares each in the newly merged public company; (iii)
22 BioZone Labs to draw down \$2 million in bridge financing to pay for the reverse merger from an
23 existing \$3 million line of credit between BioZone Labs and Bank of Marin (the “Bank”); (iv)
24 Keller’s and Fisher’s continued employment in the newly merged company; and (v) the re-payment
25 of loans previously made to BioZone Labs by Keller. The binding letter of intent was subject to
26 satisfactory completion of due diligence and other customary conditions to closing, which were
27

1 expected to be completed by March 31, 2011.

2 32. In March 2011, during the due diligence period contemplated by the letter of intent
3 with Surf, the Bank objected to the reverse merger with Surf pursuant to the Bank's right to object
4 to a major transaction under the terms of the BioZone Labs credit line with the Bank. As the Bank
5 noted, "[under] the proposed new transaction, persons who are not known to the Bank...would
6 assume control of [BioZone Labs]..." and, as a second reason, the Bank stated: "The proposed
7 acquisition creates enormous conflicts of interest. There is substantial reason to believe that the
8 resulting entity would act for the benefit of [the Investors] as a whole, rather than the interests of
9 [BioZone Labs]." The Bank concluded its rejection of the Surf reverse merger by stating that if
10 BioZone Labs were to proceed with the reverse merger despite the Bank's rejection, that would
11 itself constitute a default under the credit line and the full amount owing thereunder would
12 immediately become due and payable.

13 33. Despite the Bank's objections, the merger of BioZone Labs and Surf closed in June
14 2011, BioZone Labs drew down the \$2 million in bridge financing from the Bank contemplated by
15 the letter of intent executed with Surf, and, as a result, BioZone was created. Thereafter, the Bank
16 sent BioZone a default notice regarding the line of credit.

17 34. Virtually immediately after the Surf reverse merger creating BioZone was
18 completed, Honig and Brauser installed Maza as BioZone's CFO and as a director and changed the
19 Company's corporate address to the same business address as was shared by Honig, Brauser and
20 Frost.

21 35. On September 8, 2011, at the direction of Honig and Brauser, Maza authorized
22 BioZone to pay off BioZone's credit line with the Bank, which was accomplished through
23 additional PIPE financing supplied by the Honig Group.

24 36. Consequently, Frost, Honig, and Brauser controlled the vast majority of BioZone's

1 stock and, thereby, controlled the management of BioZone.

2 37. Further evidence of the control exerted by Frost, Honig, and Brauser over BioZone's
3 management is manifested by several additional examples, among many others, orchestrated by
4 them after the Surf reverse merger. **First**, Maza was elevated from CFO to CEO of BioZone.
5 **Second**, BioZone retained the same corporate counsel (firm and name partner) as Honig installed in
6 other firms in which he invested. **Third**, in complete derogation of his fiduciary duties to BioZone,
7 Maza sought and received approval from Honig, Brauser and Frost for material business decisions
8 regarding BioZone, including the approval to divert funds from BioZone to "pay rent for the office
9 of an unrelated entity co-owned by Honig and Brauser."¹ **Fourth**, in complete derogation of his
10 fiduciary duties to BioZone, Maza sought and received approval from Frost, Honig, and Brauser to
11 pursue external sources of financing, as evidenced by one email Maza wrote to Brauser and copied
12 to Honig, on February 28, 2013, seeking Brauser's concurrence to the proposal of two separate
13 lender proposals which Honig and Frost had already approved. **Fifth**, Maza provided Frost, Honig,
14 and Brauser with monthly reports of BioZone's business operations and opportunities, such as a
15 business memo sent to them in June 2013 outlining "an approach to stabilize the company" and
16 setting forth "priority initiatives." **Sixth**, the Honig Group, on August 26, 2013, arranged for
17 BioZone's lopsided issuance to Musclepharm Corporation ("Musclepharm"), another Honig
18 controlled company, of a convertible note with 10% interest for a one year term, coupled with
19 warrants for the purchase of 10 million shares of BioZone stock for \$.40 per share on a cashless
20 basis in the event that the BioZone shares were not registered (estimated value of \$2.5 million
21 without conversion), in exchange for Musclepharm's investment in BioZone of only \$2 million.
22 **Seventh**, on November 12, 2013, the Honig Group sold substantially all of BioZone's assets,

26 ¹ The unidentified entity may be Non-Invasive Monitoring Systems, Inc. ("NIMS"). According to
27 NIMS's quarterly report for the first quarter of 2019 ended April 30, 2019 (the "NIMS Q1 2019 10-
28 Q"), NIMS rents office space from Defendant Frost, which "In February 2016...was reduced to \$0
per month."

1 including its intellectual property and manufacturing facility, to Musclepharm in return for 1.2
2 million shares of Musclepharm's stock, without even the knowledge of Maza, BioZone's CEO.

3 38. The SEC Complaint alleges that Keller and Maza breached their fiduciary duties to
4 BioZone and its shareholders by failing to disclose that BioZone was controlled by Honig, Brauser,
5 Stetson, and Groussman when Keller and Maza signed off on public filings that failed to disclose
6 the latter's involvement as a group of greater than 5% owners of BioZone. The control exerted by
7 the Honig Group over BioZone is not only demonstrated by the Group's collective BioZone
8 stockholdings, but through internal documents reviewed by the SEC, including an email from Keller
9 to a colleague on February 12, 2012, stating: "The real power is with Barry Honig and Mike
10 Brauser, Elliot [Maza] is just mouth piece."
11

12 39. On December 8, 2011, Fisher filed a whistleblower complaint with the SEC, alleging
13 that Frost, Maza, Honig and Brauser perpetrated a fraud upon BioZone and its shareholders (the
14 "Whistleblower Complaint"). In the Whistleblower Complaint, Fisher alleged that Frost, Honig,
15 Maza, and Brauser filed false and misleading statements with the SEC in an effort to boost
16 BioZone's stock price so that they could reap substantial profits selling their BioZone holdings.
17

18 40. On January 30, 2012, Maza and BioZone's Board terminated Fisher's employment
19 with BioZone. On July 16, 2012, Fisher sued BioZone, Frost, Maza, Honig, and Brauser in the
20 United States District Court for the Northern District of California (No. 12-03716) for, among other
21 things, conversion, wrongful termination, tortious interference, violations of securities laws, and to
22 compel payment of the 6.65 million BioZone shares he was originally promised, but never received.
23 On July 18, 2012, BioZone sued Fisher in the New York Supreme Court (Index No. 652489/2012)
24 alleging breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, negligence, and seeking to recover
25 damages, past wages and cancellation of the 6.65 million BioZone shares owed to Fisher. On
26 September 5 and 10, 2013, with the direct initiative and involvement of Brauser, as he was directed
27

1 by Honig, the competing claims between Fisher, BioZone and the other defendants were settled for
2 payment of \$1.05 million cash to Fisher, the sale by Fisher to “various private accredited investors”
3 of his 6.65 million BioZone shares (for approximately \$1 million), and Fisher’s agreement to
4 dismiss all administrative claims and investigations he instituted with state or Federal agencies
5 against BioZone and to remain bound by the non-competition terms contained in his former
6 employment agreement with BioZone.

7
8 41. According to the SEC complaint, between March 2011 and June 2012, the fifteen
9 month period following the Surf reverse merger by which BioZone went public, Defendants Frost,
10 Honig, and Brauser engaged in additional PIPE financings of BioZone, including the issuance of
11 warrants for additional shares. By doing so, BioZone’s liquidity was kept to a minimum, with just
12 enough funds on hand to keep BioZone liquid, while simultaneously designating the funds available
13 to pay out excessive compensation to Defendants Maza and Keller. A casualty of this strategy was
14 BioZone’s research and development efforts, which were not funded and ceased by mid-2012.

15
16 42. As a result of their strategy to profit at the expense of BioZone and its shareholders,
17 Frost, Honig, and Brauser were able to purchase ever-increasing amounts of BioZone shares at
18 ever-decreasing prices. Defendants Maza and Keller repeatedly approved the PIPE financings that
19 would inevitably lead to a death spiral of BioZone because, as the SEC alleges, Maza and Keller
20 were promised and awarded “substantial salaries as well as millions of [BioZone] shares, by [the
21 company’s] real control persons.” At roughly the same time, in September and October 2013,
22 Honig and Brauser sold BioZone convertible debt to Stetson and O’Rourke, giving Stetson and
23 O’Rourke the right to purchase BioZone’s stock for \$0.20 per share.

24
25 43. As of April 2013, the Honig Group, together with other persons that were added to
26 the group, and as part and parcel of the expanded group’s agreement to acquire, hold or sell their
27 shares together, controlled 44,888,312 shares, or 71%, of BioZone’s outstanding equity, which was

1 never disclosed, notwithstanding the rules requiring such disclosure and their fiduciary duties
2 requiring same. In fact, Honig alone owned 5,542,654 shares, or 8.8%, of BioZone's outstanding
3 shares as of this time, but this was never properly disclosed until September 2013, when Stetson
4 notified Maza and Keller that the beneficial ownership table should be amended to reflect Honig's
5 8.8% ownership. On September 13, 2013, BioZone filed with the SEC an amended Annual Report
6 on Form 10-K/A that belatedly disclosed Honig's share ownership without providing explanation as
7 to why such disclosure was not made earlier.
8

9 44. Between August and September 2013, in breach of their fiduciary duties, Honig
10 directed Stetson to deposit 4 million of Honig's BioZone shares into a brokerage account, to falsely
11 represent to the brokerage firm that there was no connection between Honig and BioZone, and to
12 procure false attorney opinion letters to be delivered to BioZone's transfer agent unlawfully
13 removing the trading restrictions on Honig's stock certificates.
14

15 45. On September 10, 2013, in breach of his fiduciary duties, Maza wrote a letter
16 confirming the authenticity of Honig's stock certificates to the brokerage firm: "[w]e further
17 acknowledge and agree that there is no other agreement or understanding between Barry Honig and
18 [BioZone] that would preclude Honig from selling or otherwise disposing of shares represented
19 above." As alleged in the SEC Complaint, the foregoing statement was false because Defendant
20 Maza knew or should have known that Honig was affiliated with BioZone, and that the shares
21 sought to be registered with the brokerage firm were subject to volume trading limitations under the
22 federal securities laws because Honig was an affiliate of BioZone.
23

24 46. In September 2013, after Honig's shares were deposited in the brokerage account
25 and ready for sale, Honig directed O'Rourke to pay Ford 180,000 shares of BioZone stock to write
26 an article to create interest in BioZone and, thereby, its stock price, in violation of the federal
27 securities laws and in breach of his fiduciary duties.
28

1 47. O'Rourke, in breach of the federal securities laws and his and the Honig Group's
2 fiduciary duties, proceeded to contact Ford, proposed that Ford write an article promoting BioZone
3 predicated upon Frost's involvement in BioZone and its bright R&D prospects connected with the
4 development of the Qusomes formulation, despite the fact that such research and development
5 efforts had already ceased, and he agreed to pay Ford with BioZone shares to be sold to Ford at a
6 below-market price.

7 48. As part of the scheme to "pump and dump" BioZone stock in violation of the federal
8 securities laws and in breach of their fiduciary duties, the Defendants engaged in heavy trading of
9 the BioZone's stock on September 23, 2013, causing the trading volume to soar to 302,000 shares
10 from the zero shares traded the day before.

11 49. Moreover, the heavy trading on September 23 provided cover for paying Ford with
12 180,000 underpriced shares of BioZone stock. As alleged in the SEC Complaint:

13 On the morning of Friday, September 20, 2013, O'Rourke called Ford and told him
14 to put in buy orders for [BioZone] stock at \$0.40 per share to ensure his order was
15 executed against the corresponding sell order later placed by Honig. Because there
16 was so little trading at that time in [BioZone] shares, O'Rourke and Honig knew that
17 Ford's bid would be hit by Honig on the following Monday, September 23, 2013. In
18 that transaction, Honig sold 180,000 [BioZone] shares to Ford at \$0.40 per share, a
price well below the price at which these shares otherwise traded during that day.

19 50. In further violation of the federal securities laws and in breach of their fiduciary
20 duties, the Defendants then proceeded to artificially manipulate and inflate the trading price of
21 BioZone's stock by engaging in synchronized trading designed to do just that. For example,
22 according to the SEC Complaint, at 3:58 p.m. on September 23, 2013, the very end of the trading
23 day, O'Rourke – through one of his related entities – placed a bid to buy BioZone shares at \$0.68
24 per share – substantially more than the prior buy order of \$0.55 per share, which was entered at
25 about 3:06 p.m. – in order to "mark the close," *i.e.*, to ensure that the last price of the day would be
26 higher, giving the false impression that [BioZone's] share price was on an upward trajectory."
27

1 According to the SEC Complaint, another Honig associate who purchased BioZone shares from
2 Honig earlier that day placed a corresponding sell order to complete the transaction at the inflated
3 \$0.68 per share price.

4 51. Similarly, according to the SEC Complaint, on September 26, 2013, Honig,
5 O'Rourke and other of their associates engaged in further synchronized trading within minutes of
6 each other in order to raise the price of BioZone's stock to \$0.68 per share, in violation of the
7 federal securities laws and in further breach of their fiduciary duties.

8 52. On September 26, 2013, Ford published on *Seeking Alpha*, a financial news website,
9 the propaganda piece solicited and paid for by the Defendants, in breach of the federal securities
10 laws and its fiduciary duties, entitled "OPKO and its Billionaire CEO Invested in BioZone." In the
11 article, Ford praised BioZone, quoting Keller regarding the benefits of BioZone's proprietary
12 Qusomes anti-aging technology, stressing the confidence placed in the technology by virtue of the
13 investment of Frost, a career biotech investor, and falsely representing that BioZone had a Qusomes
14 formulation ready to be tested and brought to market.

15 53. Ford's article on BioZone swiftly sent BioZone's stock price soaring upward from a
16 mere 1,100 shares traded on September 25, 2013 to over 4.5 million shares traded on September 27,
17 2013, and more than 6 million shares traded on October 2, 2013. In the wake of Ford's article,
18 BioZone's stock price rose from an average of \$0.48 per share in August 2013 to an intraday high
19 of \$0.97 per share on October 17, 2013.

20 54. Between October 1 and October 4, 2013, Defendant Frost, in violation of the federal
21 securities laws and in breach of his fiduciary duties, sold 1,987,991 BioZone shares for proceeds of
22 \$1,085,321.74, never having filed a registration statement for the sale of his shares, or filing for an
23 exemption from registration, and in violation of the applicable volume limitations on sale as a result
24 of Frost's control of BioZone by virtue of his being a director of BioZone and a part of the Honig
25

1 Group.

2 55. On November 27, 2013, BioZone, now stripped of its assets and rendered a mere
3 shell by the sale of virtually all of its assets and intellectual property to Musclepharm earlier that
4 month, issued a press release entitled: “BioZone Pharmaceuticals Announces Executed Letter of
5 Intent to Merge with Cocrystal Discovery Inc.” The press release extolled the prior “strategic”
6 investments from Teva, OPKO, and the Frost Group LLC (the “Frost Group”), a Miami private
7 investment firm led by Frost,² the latter two of which owned 40% of Cocrystal Discovery.
8 Defendant Wilcox, the CEO and Chairman of Cocrystal Discovery would continue in that role after
9 the merger. Defendants Frost and Hsiao were also Cocrystal Discovery directors at that time.
10 Defendant Frost was quoted saying that the “merger will provide greater resources to help bring
11 products of the combined company to market and offer shareholders an opportunity to realize
12 significant value on their investment.” After the merger, BioZone shareholders would own 40%
13 and Cocrystal Discovery shareholders would own 60% of the Company, which would be named
14 Cocrystal Pharma, Inc.
15

16 56. On or about December 26, 2013, Honig and Brauser converted their notes into newly
17 issued BioZone common stock, which they sold for a substantial profit after the closing of the
18 reverse merger with Cocrystal Discovery.
19

20 **B. Other Breaches of Fiduciary Duty**

21 57. On March 31, 2014, the Company filed its Annual Report on Form 10-K with the
22 SEC for the year ending December 31, 2013 (the “2013 10-K”), the time prior to the closing of the
23 reverse merger with Cocrystal Discovery. The Company disclosed that, according to the
24 Company’s management team prior to 2014 (*i.e.*, before the reverse merger with Cocrystal
25 Discovery), and pursuant to the prior management team’s evaluation of the effectiveness of the
26

27
28 ² Defendant Frost’s private equity firm which specializes in public equity.

1 design and operation of Cocrysal's disclosure controls and procedures, the Company's controls and
2 procedures were *not* effective "*due to insufficient personnel to properly prepare, implement and*
3 *monitor adequate controls and procedures*" (emphasis supplied). Furthermore, the Company
4 represented that:

5 as of December 31, 2013, we identified numerous material weaknesses as
6 described below:

7 Financial Reporting Process

8 Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2013

9 Cocrysal did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare
10 financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, our process
11 lacked timely and complete financial statement reviews, appropriate account
12 closing procedures, and appropriate reconciliation processes. Also, Cocrysal
lacked documented procedures included documentation related to testing of
processes, data validation procedures from the systems into the general ledger,
testing of systems, validation of results, disclosure review, and other analytics.
Furthermore, Cocrysal lacked sufficient personnel to properly segregate duties.

13 Information Technology Systems

14 Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2013

15 Cocrysal did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting
16 related to certain information technology applications and general computer
17 controls that are considered to have an impact on financial reporting and that
resulted in a more than reasonable possibility that material misstatements in our
financial statements would not be prevented or detected.

18 Specifically, we lacked effective controls in the following areas:

19 Access Control — Cocrysal did not maintain effectively designed controls to
20 prevent unauthorized access to certain programs and data, and provide for
21 periodic review and monitoring of access including reviews of security logs and
analysis of segregation of duties conflicts.

22 Change Management — Cocrysal did not maintain effectively designed controls
23 to ensure that all information technology program and data changes were
24 authorized, developer access to the production environment was limited, and that
all program and data changes were adequately tested for accuracy and appropriate
implementation.

25 Spreadsheets — Cocrysal did not maintain effectively designed controls to
26 ensure that critical spreadsheets were identified, access to these spreadsheets was
27 restricted to appropriate personnel, changes to data or formulas were authorized
and appropriate, or that the spreadsheets were adequately reviewed by someone
other than the preparer.

Therefore, our internal controls over financial reporting were not effective as of December 31, 2013.

58. Conversely, with regard to the period after the merger with Cocrystal Discovery, the 2013 Form 10-K stated that “[c]urrent management believes that its controls are effective.”

59. The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2015, disclosed that the Company’s controls and procedures even after the merger with Cocrystal Discovery were *not* effective “*due to insufficient personnel to properly prepare, implement and monitor adequate controls and procedures*” (emphasis supplied).

Furthermore, the Company represented that:

During our assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, we identified the following material weakness:

Financial Reporting Process

Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2014

Cocrystal did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, our process lacked timely and complete financial statement reviews and procedures to ensure all required disclosures were made in our financial statements. Also, Cocrystal lacked documented procedures including documentation related to testing of internal controls and entity-level controls, disclosure review, and other analytics. Furthermore, Cocrystal lacked sufficient personnel to properly segregate duties.

Therefore, our internal controls over financial reporting were not effective as of December 31, 2014.

* * *

In the fourth quarter of the year ended December 31, 2014, we implemented procedures to remediate our previously reported material weakness relating to our accounting for complex financial instruments. We previously reported that we did not maintain effective controls over the identification and proper accounting treatment of certain terms and conditions in agreements that contained complex financial instruments, including derivatives. During the fourth quarter of the year ended December 31, 2014, we implemented processes to utilize outside consultants, where necessary, to assist us in our evaluation of the accounting for complex transactions containing complex financial instruments or derivatives. When we enter into such agreements, we consult with such specialists and use their expertise to help us evaluate the appropriate accounting treatment for these

1 transactions. We believe implementation of these processes has remediated our
2 previously reported material weakness.

3 60. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31,
4 2015, filed with the SEC on March 15, 2016, disclosed that the Company's controls and procedures
5 were *not* effective "*due to inadequate accounting systems and insufficient personnel to properly*
6 *prepare, implement and monitor adequate controls and procedures*" (emphasis supplied).

7 Furthermore, the Company represented that:

8 During our assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial
9 reporting as of December 31, 2015, we identified the following material
10 weakness:

11 *COSO Components – Control Environment*

12 We did not maintain an effective control environment, which is the foundation
13 and structure necessary for effective internal control over financial reporting, as
14 evidenced by: (i) lack of segregation of duties over individuals responsible for
15 certain key control activities; (ii) an insufficient number of personnel
16 appropriately qualified to perform control monitoring activities, including the
17 recognition of the risks and complexities of transactions; and (iii) an insufficient
18 number of personnel with the appropriate level of GAAP knowledge and
19 experience commensurate with our financial reporting requirements. This control
20 environment material weakness contributed to the company not having effective
21 controls to ensure that potential errors or misstatements may occur, but may not
22 be detected.

23 *Risk Assessment, Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Segregation of*
24 *Duties*

25 We did not maintain adequate segregation of duties in our accounting and
26 financial reporting processes. We have not appropriately restricted access to our
27 accounting applications to appropriate users and do not have processes in place
28 that ensure that appropriate segregation of duties is maintained. Certain personnel
have access to financial applications, programs and data beyond that needed to
perform their individual job responsibilities and without independent monitoring.
This allows for the creation, review and processing of certain financial data
without independent review and authorization. There are also certain financial
personnel that have incompatible duties, including in the areas of cash
disbursements, payroll, and journal entry reviews. We have not yet completed the
process of assigning different people the responsibilities of authorizing
transactions, recording transactions, and maintaining custody of assets to reduce
the opportunities to allow any person to be in a position to both perpetrate and
conceal errors or fraud in the normal course of the person's duties. Particularly in

1 the areas of purchases, cash disbursements, and payroll, certain individuals have
2 incompatible duties that limit our ability to identify and detect errors or fraud that
may occur.

3 *Risk Assessment, Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Supervision and*
4 *Review of Complex Accounting Areas*

5 The Company lacks sufficient qualified personnel to review conclusions reached
6 regarding the accounting for complex transactions and related analyses to record
7 amounts resulting from such transactions in our financial records. For calculations
8 related to stock-based compensation and the fair value of our derivative liabilities
9 in particular, there is a lack of review of assumptions used and the underlying
10 calculations made by the preparer of this information that are then used to record
11 amounts in our financial statements. There is also a lack of review of assumptions
used and documentation of the sources of information used in our evaluation of
the fair value of our in-process research and development intangible asset. Our
internal control over these processes would not allow for employees to detect a
material misstatement in these areas in the normal course of performing their
duties.

12 *Risk Assessment, Information and Communication - Authorization, Identification*
13 *and Reporting of Related Party Transactions*

14 We do not have processes in place to ensure that all related party transactions,
15 including those entered into with or on behalf of related parties, (1) have been
16 identified, (2) are properly authorized prior to entering into the transaction, and
(3) are properly monitored and evaluated for appropriate recording and
presentation in the financial statements.

17 *Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Financial Reporting Process*

18 We did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare financial
19 statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, our process lacked
20 timely and complete financial statement reviews and procedures to ensure all
21 required disclosures were made in our financial statements. We also lacked a
22 process to review information used to prepare our financial statements and
disclosures and did not have adequate segregation of duties over preparation of
the financial statements.

23 The material weaknesses identified by management could result in a material
24 misstatement to our annual or interim financial statements that would not be
25 prevented or detected. Management has concluded that our internal control over
26 financial reporting was not effective as of December 31, 2015 due to the material
weaknesses identified. We reviewed the results of management's assessment with
the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

27 61. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31,

2016, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2017, disclosed that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were *not* effective "*as a result of the material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting*" (emphasis supplied). Furthermore, the Company represented that:

During our assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, our management concluded that our Company has the following material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016:

Control Environment

We did not maintain an effective control environment, which is the foundation and structure necessary for effective internal control over financial reporting, as evidenced by: (i) lack of segregation of duties over individuals responsible for certain key control activities; (ii) an insufficient number of personnel appropriately qualified to perform control monitoring activities, including the recognition of the risks and complexities of transactions; and (iii) an insufficient number of personnel with the appropriate level of GAAP knowledge and experience commensurate with our financial reporting requirements. This control environment material weakness contributed to the company not having effective controls to ensure that potential errors or misstatements may occur, but may not be detected.

Risk Assessment, Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Segregation of Duties

We did not maintain adequate segregation of duties in our accounting and financial reporting processes. We have not appropriately restricted access to our accounting applications to appropriate users and do not have processes in place that ensure that appropriate segregation of duties is maintained. Certain personnel have access to financial applications, programs and data beyond that needed to perform their individual job responsibilities and without independent monitoring. This allows for the creation, review and processing of certain financial data without independent review and authorization. There are also certain financial personnel that have incompatible duties, including in the areas of cash disbursements, payroll, and journal entry reviews. We have not yet completed the process of assigning different people the responsibilities of authorizing transactions, recording transactions, and maintaining custody of assets to reduce the opportunities to allow any person to be in a position to both perpetrate and conceal errors or fraud in the normal course of the person's duties. Particularly in the areas of purchases, cash disbursements, and payroll, certain individuals have incompatible duties that limit our ability to identify and detect errors or fraud that may occur.

Risk Assessment, Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Supervision and Review of Complex Accounting Areas

1 The Company lacks sufficient qualified personnel to review conclusions reached
2 regarding the accounting for complex transactions and related analyses to record
3 amounts resulting from such transactions in our financial records. For calculations
4 related to stock-based compensation and the fair value of our derivative liabilities
5 in particular, there is a lack of review of assumptions used and the underlying
6 calculations made by the preparer of this information that are then used to record
7 amounts in our financial statements. There is also a lack of review of assumptions
8 used and documentation of the sources of information used in our evaluation of
9 the fair value of our in-process research and development intangible asset. Our
10 internal control over these processes would not allow for employees to detect a
11 material misstatement in these areas in the normal course of performing their
12 duties.

13
14 *Risk Assessment, Information and Communication - Authorization, Identification
15 and Reporting of Related Party Transactions*

16 We do not have processes in place to ensure that all related party transactions,
17 including those entered into with or on behalf of related parties, (1) have been
18 identified, (2) are properly authorized prior to entering into the transaction, and
19 (3) are properly monitored and evaluated for appropriate recording and
20 presentation in the financial statements.

21 *Monitoring Activities and Control Activities - Financial Reporting Process*

22 We did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare financial
23 statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, our process lacked
24 timely and complete financial statement reviews and procedures to ensure all
25 required disclosures were made in our financial statements. We also lacked a
26 process to review information used to prepare our financial statements and
27 disclosures and did not have adequate segregation of duties over preparation of
28 the financial statements.

The material weaknesses identified by management could result in a material
misstatement to our annual or interim financial statements that would not be
prevented or detected. Management has concluded that our internal control over
financial reporting was not effective as of December 31, 2015 due to the material
weaknesses identified. We reviewed the results of management's assessment with
the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

62. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on March 21, 2018 (the "2017 Form 10-K"), disclosed that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were not effective "*as a result of the material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting*" (emphasis supplied). Furthermore, the Company represented that:

During the year ended December 31, 2016, management identified certain material weaknesses related to (i) an effective control environment; (ii) inadequate segregation of duties in our accounting and financial reporting processes; (iii) inadequate supervision and review of complex accounting areas; (iv) inadequate processes to authorize, identify, and report related party transactions; and (v) an ineffective financial reporting process with respect to preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. To remediate the material weaknesses, during 2017, we designed and implemented a comprehensive remediation plan to remediate the material weaknesses and generally strengthen our internal control over financial reporting. During the fourth quarter of 2017, we successfully completed the testing necessary to conclude that certain material weakness identified in 2016 had been remediated. However, management concluded that some of the previously identified material weaknesses were not remediated as of December 31, 2017, primarily due to the additional time needed to incorporate all controls and processes as it relates to our internal control over financial reporting.

During our assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, our management concluded that our Company has the following material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017:

Risk Assessment and Control Activities - Financial Reporting Process

We did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, the process lacked timely and documented financial statement reviews of information included in the financial statements and procedures to ensure all required disclosures were made in the financial statements.

This material weakness could result in a material misstatement to the Company's annual or interim financial statements that would not be prevented or detected.

Control Activities - Preparation and Review of Manual Account Reconciliations

Our design and maintenance of controls in the period-end financial reporting process, specifically the execution of controls over the preparation, analysis and review of account reconciliations, were ineffective. These control deficiencies

1 resulted in adjustments to the 2017 consolidated financial statements related to
2 stock-based compensation and the fair value of warrant liabilities.

3 C. The False and Misleading 2018 Proxy Statement

4 63. On June 25, 2018, the Company filed the 2018 Proxy with the soliciting
5 shareholders' votes to, among other things, "approve, on an advisory basis, Cocrystal's Named
6 Executive Officer compensation." In the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the
7 2018 Proxy, the Company stated the following, in relevant part:

8 Our compensation philosophy is to attract and retain talented and
9 dedicated executives who will work to achieve our desired business
10 direction, strategy, and performance. The primary goals of our
11 compensation program for our NEOs are to:

- 12 (i) attract, motivate, and retain talented executives with the skill
13 sets and expertise we need to meet our scientific and business
14 objectives;
- 15 (ii) generally be competitive in the marketplace; and
- 16 (iii) be cost-effective.

17 To achieve these goals, we have formed a Compensation Committee
18 (the "Committee") that has the power to review and approve the
19 executive compensation packages for our executive officers, including
20 NEOs. Although we have not adopted any formal guidelines for
21 allocating total compensation between equity compensation and cash
22 compensation, we maintain compensation plans that if implemented
23 can tie a substantial portion of our executives' overall compensation to
24 the achievement of corporate goals and success of the Company.

25 (Emphasis added).

26 64. The foregoing statements are materially false and misleading because as discussed in
27 detail above and as evidenced by the Company's public filings with the SEC, the Compensation
28 Committee reviewed, authorized and/or approved the payment of compensation to the Director
Defendants that was inconsistent with the statements made in the 2018 Proxy.

29 D. Related Party Transactions

30 65. In Cocrystal's 2017 Form 10-K, as amended, the following related party transactions

are disclosed for the first time, which were entered into in breach of the Defendants' fiduciary duties:

(i) Since November 2014, the Company has leased its Tucker, Georgia facility from a limited liability company owned by Schinazi. Rent expense for 2017 totaled \$153,000. In January 2018, the Company reduced its lease from approximately 6,148 square feet to approximately 1,200 square feet;

(ii) Cocystal has entered into certain license agreements to which Emory University ("Emory") is directly, or indirectly, a party. Due to Schinazi's relationship with Emory and his contributions to the intellectual property and technology which are the subject of the licenses, he may, in the future, be entitled under these agreements to payments of material amounts from Emory University or its partners;³

(iii) On April 20, 2017, the Company sold 416,664 shares of the Company's common stock in a private placement offering at a purchase price of \$7.20 per share for gross proceeds of \$3,000,000. The purchasers included Schinazi and OPKO (which received 138,889 shares of Cocystal common stock);

(iv) On November 24, 2017, the Company borrowed \$500,000 from each of Schinazi and Brace Pharma, in which Schinazi is a director, in exchange for two-year 8% convertible notes each in the principal amount of \$500,000, which will automatically convert into the Company's common stock if the Company receives \$10 million or more in gross proceeds from a public offering of Company stock or any other equity financing transaction; and

(v) On January 31, 2018, the Company borrowed \$1,000,000 from OPKO in exchange for a two-year 8% convertible note in the principal amount of \$1,000,000, which will automatically convert into 123,456 shares of the Company's common stock if the Company receives \$10 million or more in gross proceeds from a public offering of Company stock or any other equity financing transaction.

E. The SEC and Investors File Complaints

66. On September 7, 2018, the SEC brought suit against Defendants Honig, Stetson, Brauser, O'Rourke, Maza, Keller, the Frost Gamma Investment Trust, OPKO, and other named defendants for, amongst other things, manipulation of Cocystal stock in a pump and dump scheme. The SEC Complaint was filed in the Southern District of New York before the Honorable Edgardo

³ On Dec. 6, 2018, the Company notified Emory of the termination of its License Agreement with Emory, dated March 7, 2013.

1 Ramos. According to the SEC, Honig led the \$27 million “pump and dump” scheme to which
2 Cocrysal was subjected.

3 67. Defendant Frost’s settlement with the SEC was approved by Judge Ramos on
4 January 10, 2019. Frost agreed to pay disgorgement of \$433,181, plus \$90,206 in interest, and a
5 civil penalty of \$5,000,000. Frost also consented to being permanently enjoined from: participating
6 in any penny stock offering with few exceptions; violating Section 17(a)(2) by making materially
7 untrue statements or omissions in connection with sales of securities; violating Section 13(d) and
8 Rule 13d-1(a) by failing to file required stock-ownership reports on Schedule 13D; and violating
9 Sections 5(a) and (c) by selling unregistered securities.
10

11 68. On March 8, 2019, the SEC filed an Amended Complaint against the remaining
12 Defendants. On March 21, 2019, Defendant Maza settled the SEC’s claims against him and agreed
13 not to serve as a director or officer of any penny stock company. Maza further agreed not to violate
14 Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, Rule 10b-5, and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, as well as
15 to refrain from aiding and abetting any violation of Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and Rule
16 15d-1. The Court will decide if Maza should pay any disgorgement or penalties.
17

18 69. Defendant Keller settled with the SEC on March 26, 2019. Under the terms of a
19 consent judgment, Keller was permanently enjoined from: violating Sections 10(b) and 15(d) of the
20 Exchange Act, Rules 10b-5 and 15d-1, and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act, participating in any
21 penny stock offering, or acting as an officer or director of any public company. The Court will
22 decide if Keller should pay any disgorgement or penalties.
23

24 70. Defendant Honig settled with the SEC on June 17, 2019. Under the terms of the
25 consent judgment, Honig was barred from violating Sections 10(b), 9(a)(1), 9(a)(2), and 13(d) of
26 the Exchange Act, Sections 17(a) and 5 of the Securities Act, and Rules 10b-5 and 13d-1(a). Honig
27 was also prohibited from holding 5% or more beneficial ownership of any penny stock issuer, or
28

1 promoting, controlling, or funding any penny stock issuer. The Court will decide if Honig should
 2 pay any disgorgement or penalties.

3 71. On June 25, 2019, an amended securities class action complaint was filed in the
 4 District of New Jersey, naming Cocystal, Maza, Wilcox, Meckler, McGuire, Martin, Dale, Frost,
 5 Honig, Stetson, O'Rourke, and Keller. The Complaint alleges that from at least September 23,
 6 2013 through at least September 7, 2018, Defendants violated:

- 7 • Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5;
- 8 • Section 9(a) and (f) of the Exchange Act;
- 9 • Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act; and
- 10 • Section 20(b) of the Exchange Act.

11 **THE COCRYSTAL DEFENDANTS' FIDUCIARY DUTIES**

12 72. By reason of their positions as officers and/or directors of Cocystal and because of
 13 their responsibility to control the business and corporate affairs of the Company, the Cocystal
 14 Defendants owed and owe the Company and its shareholders the fiduciary obligations of good faith,
 15 loyalty, and due care, and were and are required to use their utmost ability to control and manage
 16 the Company in a just, honest, fair, and equitable manner. Each Cocystal Defendant owed and
 17 owes the Company and its shareholders the fiduciary duty to exercise good faith and diligence in
 18 the administration of the affairs of the Company.

19 73. To discharge their duties, the Cocystal Defendants were and are required to exercise
 20 reasonable and prudent oversight and supervision over the management, policies, practices, and
 21 controls of Cocystal and its financial reporting systems. By virtue of such duties, the Cocystal
 22 Defendants were and are required to follow the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.
 23 In addition, the Cocystal Defendants serving on the Board's three standing committees, the Audit
 24 Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the

1 Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, are further obligated to uphold the special
2 duties set forth in the charters for each respective committee.

3 **A. Cocrystal's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

4 74. Cocrystal's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics was adopted by the Board to serve
5 as a framework under which the Board is required to fulfill its duties with expertise, integrity, and
6 an understanding of the Company's business environment. Violations of Cocrystal's Code of
7 Business Conduct and Ethics are punishable by penalties and/or termination of employment. As
8 required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the Cocrystal
9 Defendants were and are required to refrain from engaging in misconduct, and to claw back
10 compensation from officers engaged in knowing misconduct, including violations of applicable law
11 and NASDAQ rules. The Cocrystal Defendants were and are obligated to file full, accurate, and
12 timely reports and public communications with the SEC.
13

14 75. Among the duties imposed by the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics are:

- 15 • Maintaining complete and accurate Company records;
- 16 • Practicing good leadership and fair supervision;
- 17 • The prohibition of trading on any stock by persons who are aware of
18 material nonpublic information;
- 19 • Seeking approval from Cocrystal's general counsel before any
20 director or officer can engage in transactions involving Company
21 securities;
- 22 • Refraining from trading on material nonpublic information even after
23 the conclusion of employment with Cocrystal;
- 24 • The prohibition of short selling and hedging (including placing puts
25 or calls on) Cocrystal securities;
- 26 • Refraining from tipping off others to material nonpublic Company
27 information; and
- 28 • Maintaining confidentiality of Company information.

B. Additional Fiduciary Duties of the Audit Committee Members

76. In addition to the fiduciary duties described above, the members of the Board's Audit Committee are responsible for monitoring the "major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures." The Audit Committee charter obligates members to review and discuss with management and the Company's independent auditor, the integrity and accuracy of the Company's financial statements and public disclosures. Defendant Rubin is Chair and Defendant Frost is a member of the Audit Committee.

77. The Audit Committee Charter provides that the Audit Committee shall meet with the Board four times each year to ensure Cocystal's public filings with the SEC are in compliance with the law. The Charter further provides that the members of the Audit Committee shall, among other things:

- Maintain a procedure for receipt, retention and treatment of any complaints received by the Company about its accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and for the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;
- Evaluate the performance of the Committee, review and reassess this Charter and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the Board; and
- Review with management and the Company's independent auditor any issues related to the Company's accounting or internal controls.

78. The Audit Committee Charter further provides that no member of the committee shall serve as an "affiliate of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company, other than a director who meets the independence requirements of the Nasdaq."

C. Additional Duties of the Compensation Committee Members

79. The Compensation Committee is comprised of Defendants Hsiao and Rubin. Hsiao and Rubin are charged with determining the appropriate compensation for executive officers,

1 establishing distribution plans and administering payments pursuant to those plans. Additionally,
2 the members of the Compensation Committee are charged with approving the compensation for and
3 reviewing the performance of Cocystal's CEO, Defendant Wilcox.

4 **D. Additional Duties of the Nominating and Corporate Governance**
5 **Committee**

6 80. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Defendants Hsiao
7 (Chair) and Rubin. However, the Committee's own charter requires a membership of not less than
8 three independent members.

9 81. In discharging their duties, the members of the Nominating and Corporate
10 Governance Committee were and are responsible for reviewing policies on the composition and
11 criteria for continued membership on the Board. Additionally, members of the Nominating and
12 Corporate Governance Committee were and are charged with reasonable oversight concerning the
13 implementation and effectiveness of the compliance and ethics program, including inquiry into the
14 "background and qualifications of any candidate for the Board of Directors and such candidate's
15 compliance with the independence and other qualification requirements
16 established by the Committee."
17

18 **E. The Controlling Shareholders' Duties**

19 82. The controlling shareholders, by virtue of their majority interest in Cocystal's
20 voting stock and their actual control over the Company's affairs and conduct, had a fiduciary
21 responsibility to control the corporation in a fair, just, and equitable manner.
22

23 83. The controlling shareholders had a duty to ensure that their use of control benefits all
24 shareholders proportionately and had a duty to abstain from using their ability to control corporate
25 activities to benefit themselves or in a manner detrimental to the minority. This included the pump
26 and dump scheme which was used to exploit the Company for their own financial gain. By
27

1 elevating the price of Cocrystal stock through paid articles and then selling that stock the controlling
2 shareholders caused the Company's stock to trade at artificially inflated prices only to fall
3 precipitously and has led to a potentially material liability to a class of investors who have initiated
4 class action litigation against the Company, among others.

5 84. As controlling shareholders standing on both sides of the related party transactions,
6 they had a fiduciary duty to ensure the entire fairness of the transactions, irrespective of any
7 purported personal business objective or judgment, to Plaintiff and other minority shareholders.

9 **DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND FUTILITY ALLEGATIONS**

10 85. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interest of Cocrystal and its
11 shareholders in enforcing and prosecuting their rights.

12 86. Plaintiff seeks to redress injuries suffered and to be suffered by the Company as a
13 direct result of the violations of fiduciary duty by the Defendants, as well as aiding and abetting.

14 87. Plaintiff did not demand that Cocrystal's Board take the action requested herein
15 because doing so would constitute a wasteful, futile and useless act. The named Defendants,
16 individually and in concert, breached their fiduciary duties of good faith, loyalty, and due care, and
17 were derelict in the performance of their fiduciary duties to manage Cocrystal fairly, justly,
18 honestly, and equitably. Furthermore, the personal conflicts of interest faced by a majority of the
19 current directors raise reasonable doubt as to whether these individuals are capable of acting
20 independently and impartially.

21
22 88. The Defendants knew or disregarded the lack of internal controls over, among other
23 things, financial reporting and disclosure requirements. Notwithstanding the obvious risks posed to
24 Cocrystal and its shareholders from a material weakness in such internal controls, the Defendants
25 failed to ensure that corporate actions were being taken for the benefit of the Company and its
26 shareholders rather than to benefit themselves, that material information was disclosed in
27

1 compliance with SEC rules and regulations, failed to comply with the Company's own Code of
2 Business Conduct and Ethics, failed to hold the Company's directors, officers, and employees
3 accountable for their violations of the federal securities laws and the Company's own policies,
4 failed to ensure that an effective system of internal controls was implemented and maintained, and
5 failed to perform their proper level of oversight duties as directors of the Company.

6 89. A majority of the Board faces a substantial likelihood of liability for breaches of
7 fiduciary duty for the alleged misconduct that cannot be exculpated due to their participation or
8 acquiescence in the wrongs alleged herein and/or failures to comply with the Company's Corporate
9 Governance Guidelines. Furthermore, they cannot be said to be independent from each other or
10 from those facing a substantial likelihood of liability. At all relevant times, the Board participated
11 in the misconduct alleged herein or did not perform the proper level of oversight over the Company,
12 as is their fiduciary duty.
13

14 90. The Cocystal Board consists of eleven (11) directors. Each faces a substantial
15 likelihood of personal liability for their breaches of the duties of trust, loyalty, good faith, candor,
16 oversight, reasonable inquiry, supervision, and due care described herein. As such, they cannot
17 make an impartial decision as to whether to institute legal proceedings against those alleged to have
18 committed wrongdoing. Therefore, demand would be futile as to at least a majority of the Cocystal
19 Directors.
20

21 **A. The Directors Face a Substantial Likelihood of Liability**
22

23 91. The Director Defendants have participated in, known, disregarded and/or directly
24 benefitted from the wrongs complained of herein.

25 92. Cocystal has been, and will continue to be exposed to significant losses due to the
26 wrongdoing complained of herein. The Director Defendants have not attempted to recover the
27

1 damages the Company has suffered or will suffer thereby. Furthermore, the Director Defendants
2 have not taken any action against the parties responsible for the wrongdoing alleged and permitted
3 them to continue to officiate in the same capacities as they served at the time of the wrongdoing
4 alleged

5 93. Each of the Director Defendants faces a substantial likelihood of liability for his or
6 her own individual misconduct. Each had a fiduciary duty to ensure that the Company's SEC
7 filings, accounting statements, press releases, and other public statements and presentations on
8 behalf of the Company were complete and accurate. Each failed to ensure that material information
9 was timely disclosed, rather than concealed, and that proper and adequate internal controls and
10 governance procedures were in place and followed.

12 94. The Directors owed and continue to owe a further duty to ensure that information
13 about the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls was accurate, that disclosure controls
14 and procedures were effective, and that material changes in risk factors were disclosed. Further, the
15 Directors were and are obligated to oversee the internal governance and accounting controls and
16 procedures to ensure that SEC filings accurately reflected the Company's true financial condition
17 and business prospects.

19 95. Moreover, the Director Defendants comprising the Audit Committee and
20 Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees were particularly derelict in discharging in
21 good faith and with the required due diligence and due care their responsibilities. These Defendants
22 either participated in or turned a blind eye to the "pump and dump" scheme complained of herein.
23 They also failed to make certain that adequate controls and procedures were in place to prevent such
24 an illegal scheme from being perpetrated to the detriment of the Company and its shareholders.

26 96. These Director Defendants, if demand were made of them, would have to evaluate
27 whether to sue themselves and/or their fellow directors in evaluating the wrongdoing alleged and
28

1 the request to bring an action for their breaches of fiduciary duties. This is not something they
2 would or could do. Therefore, these Director Defendants cannot act in a manner necessary to
3 preserve their independence and disinterest.

4 **B. Demand is Futile as to Defendant Frost**

5 97. Defendant Frost cannot fairly consider a demand with the required disinterest and
6 independence by virtue of his violations of the federal securities laws and breaches of fiduciary
7 duties. Defendant Frost is a named Defendant in the SEC Complaint and other actions and has
8 consented to the entry of an order requiring, among other things, his payment of \$5.5 million in
9 penalties to the SEC, disgorgement, prejudgment interest, and a prohibition from buying new penny
10 stocks, as well as restrictions on selling penny stock, connected with his underlying alleged
11 misconduct. He was directly involved in the “pump and dump” scheme, placed his personal
12 interests above the interests of the Company and its shareholders, knew that material information
13 necessary to make the Company’s disclosures true and accurate was omitted from the Company’s
14 public filings and other statements, and engaged in other breaches of fiduciary duty alleged herein.
15 As such, Defendant Frost cannot be expected to act with disinterest and independence and cannot
16 fairly consider a demand.
17

18 **C. Demand is Futile as to Defendants Maza and Keller**

19 98. Defendants Maza and Keller cannot fairly consider a demand with the required
20 disinterest and independence by virtue of their violations of the federal securities and breaches of
21 fiduciary duties. Defendants Maza and Keller are named defendants in the SEC complaint and
22 other actions. In March 2019, Defendants Maza and Keller consented to the entry of judgment
23 against them in the SEC Action providing for their permanent bar from: (i) participating in or being
24 a director or officer of any penny stock company; (ii) violating SEC Rule 10b-5; (iii) violating SEC
25 Rule 15d-1; and (iv) violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and allowing the SEC to
26
27
28

1 order the further disgorgement of his ill-gotten gains. Defendants Maza and Keller were directly
 2 involved in the “pump and dump” scheme, placed their personal interests above the interests of the
 3 Company and its shareholders, knew that material information necessary to make the Company’s
 4 disclosures true and accurate was omitted from the Company’s public filings and other statements,
 5 and engaged in other breaches of fiduciary duty alleged herein. As such, Defendants Maza and
 6 Keller cannot be expected to act with disinterest and independence and cannot fairly consider a
 7 demand.
 8

9 **D. Demand is Futile as to the Audit Committee Defendants**

10 99. The Audit Committee directors (Chairman Rubin, Frost, and Brady) also cannot
 11 fairly consider a demand with the required disinterest and independence by virtue of their own
 12 violations of the federal securities laws and breaches of fiduciary duties. In fact, Frost has
 13 consented to the entry of judgment against him in the SEC Action, entered by the Court on January
 14 10, 2019, agreeing to pay \$5.5 million in penalties to the SEC, disgorgement of profits, payment
 15 prejudgment interest and prohibiting him from buying new penny stocks, as well as restrictions on
 16 his sale of penny stocks, deriving from the wrongful misconduct alleged.
 17

18 100. Furthermore, the members of the Audit Committee lack independence and disinterest
 19 because they have admitted to violating their duties mandated by the Audit Committee Charter;
 20 namely, oversight of: (i) the Company’s accounting and financial reporting; (ii) internal control
 21 systems; (iii) the performance of the Company’s internal audit function and independent auditor;
 22 and (iv) ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
 23

24 101. Moreover, Defendant Rubin cannot exercise independence regarding Frost by virtue
 25 of their having a close personal relationship and intertwining business dealings over at least the last
 26 five years.

27 **E. Demand is Futile as to the Director Defendants for Additional Reasons**

102. Cocystal's Board has already demonstrated that it cannot consider a pre-suit demand to bring the claims set forth herein with the required disinterest and independence. Defendants are on record of making false and misleading statements, failing to disclose material information necessary to make statements complete and accurate, and authorizing corporate actions as part of a pump and dump scheme that were meant to benefit themselves to the detriment of the Company and its shareholders. The Board has taken no action to address the harm the Defendants' misconduct has caused the Company.

103. Furthermore, in order to bring this action for breach of fiduciary duties, the members of the Cocystal Board would be required to sue themselves and/or their fellow directors and officers with whom they have entangling alliances, interests, and dependencies, which they would not do. As such, the Defendants cannot act in a disinterested and independent manner in considering a demand. For example:

- Defendants Wilcox, Frost, Hsiao, and Rubin are well-acquainted, having served on the Board of Directors of Cocystal's predecessors BioZone and Cocystal Discovery.
- Defendants Frost, Hsiao, and Rubin have long-standing business relationships. First, Defendant Frost and FGIT own 54,690,325 shares of NIMS common stock, or 35.3% thereof. Defendant Hsiao is the Chairman and CEO and Defendant Rubin is a member of the NIMS Board. Second, NIMS rents office space at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard⁴ (the "Frost Office Building") for \$0 a month from Defendant Frost, who owns almost 36% of NIMS stock through FGIT and individually. Third, Frost is Chairman of OPKO, Hsiao is its Vice Chairman, CTO, and a director. Defendant Rubin is EVP-Administration and a director. Fourth, Defendant Frost was the Chairman of OPKO predecessor Exegenics, Inc. ("Exegenics") and Defendant Hsiao was Exegenics' Vice Chairman and CTO while Defendant Rubin was Exegenics' EVP-Administration. Last, Frost co-founded OPKO with Hsiao in 2007, with Frost being its Chairman, Hsiao its Vice Chairman and CTO, and Rubin a member of its Board.
- Defendants Frost and Hsiao co-founded Ivax in 1986. Frost was Ivax's CEO; Rubin served as Ivax's Vice President; Secretary, and General Counsel from 2001 until it was sold to Teva in 2006.⁵ Frost then became Teva's Vice Chairman and then Chairman from 2010 until 2015. Hsiao is the Investment Officer and Rubin is the Secretary & Vice President of

⁴ Defendant Frost owns this building.

⁵ Ivax (Teva) has offices in the Frost Office Building, according to a Yellow Pages listing.

the Frost Group. Defendants Frost, Hsiao, and Rubin have also served together on the Board of Directors of Cellular Technical Services Company, Inc. ("CTSC"). CTSC later merged with SafeStich Medical, Inc. ("SafeStich Medical").⁶ Defendants Frost, Hsiao, and Rubin also served together on the Board of SafeStich Medical, which later merged with TransEnterix, Inc. ("TransEnterix"). Defendant Hsiao is a TransEnterix director.

- Frost and Hsiao have also served as directors of Protalix Biotherapeutics Inc. Additionally, Defendant Frost was Chairman of SearchMedia Holdings Ltd. ("SearchMedia") and Defendant Rubin was a director. Ideation Acquisition, Inc. ("Ideation Acquisition") bought SearchMedia in 2009. Frost was the Chairman of Ideation Acquisition Corporation ("Ideation Acquisition") since its inception in 2008, while Rubin was a Director.
- Defendants Rubin and Hsiao also served on the Board of Directors of Tiger X Medical, Inc. ("Tiger X Medical") until its merger with BioCardia, Inc. ("BioCardia") in 2016, while FGIT owned 31,822,339 shares of common stock or 13.78% percent of BioCardia after the merger.⁷
- Defendant Frost was also the Chairman of Prolor Biotech Inc. ("Prolor Biotech") while Defendants Hsiao and Rubin were former directors. Prolor Biotech was bought by OPKO for \$480 million in 2013.⁸
- Defendants Frost and Hsiao have also served on the Boards of Orthodontix Inc. ("Orthodontix").
- Frost, Hsiao, and Rubin also served on the Board of Modigene, Inc. ("Modigene"), Frost being Chairman, while Hsiao and Rubin were Directors, and they collectively issued a \$12 million line of credit to Modigene in 2008.
- Frost, FGIT, and OPKO are also investors in Neovasc Inc., where Rubin is Chairman of the Board and Hsiao is a director.
- Frost and Rubin are also Directors of Castle Brands Inc.
- Frost and Rubin have also served on the Board of Eloxx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where Rubin is a director.
- Frost and Rubin are past Vice Chairman and Director, respectively, of Idi, Inc.
- Defendant Rubin is a ChromaDex director, while Defendant Frost owns 6.1% thereof.
- Frost and Hsiao were also members of the Board of Fabrus, LLC, in which OPKO, Frost's FGIT, and Hsiao's HGI were major investors.

⁶ SafeStich Medical was founded in 2005 by Frost, Hsiao, and Dr. Charles Filipi. SafeStich Medical's principal executive offices were at the Frost Office Building, according to its Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

⁷ Tiger X Medical's (now BioCardia) offices are in the Frost Office Building.

⁸ Prolor's offices were in the Frost Office Building.

- Frost and Rubin were also directors of Senesco Technologies, Inc., which was bought by Fabrus in 2014 and changed its name to Sevion Therapeutics, Inc.
- Frost, Rubin, and Brauser also served together on the board of Cogint, Inc. (“Cogint”), where Defendant Brauser was Chairman and Frost was Vice Chairman.

104. Finally, demand would be futile because publicly traded companies, such as Cocrystal, typically carry director and officer liability insurance from which Cocrystal could potentially recover some or all of its losses. However, such insurance typically contains an “insured vs. insured” disclaimer that would foreclose a recovery therefrom in the event that the Company sues to recover its damages from the Cocrystal Defendants. As such, demand is futile.

COUNT I

(VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 14(A) OF THE EXCHANGE ACT AGAINST THE DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS)

105. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

106. The Director Defendants issued, caused to be issued, and participated in the issuance of materially false and misleading written statements and material omissions to shareholders that were contained in the Company’s 2018 Proxy Statement. The 2018 Proxy Statement soliciting materials failed to disclose to the Company’s shareholders the information alleged herein. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, the Director Defendants, who caused the issuance of the 2018 Proxy Statement, violated Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act. As a direct and proximate result of these Defendants’ wrongful conduct, the Company misled and/or deceived its shareholders by falsely portraying the financial results and operations of the Company.

107. Plaintiff, on behalf of the Company, thereby seeks declaratory and injunctive relief in connection with the misleading and incomplete proxy materials. With respect to the “Say on Pay” compensation proposal contained in the 2018 Proxy Statement, which was approved by

1 shareholders due to the false and misleading statements contained in the Proxies, Plaintiff seeks: (a)
 2 a declaration that the Proxies were false and misleading; (b) an order setting aside the shareholder
 3 approval of the Say on Pay proposals; (c) an injunction barring the Director Defendants who
 4 received compensation identified in the Proxies from exercising any options or selling any stock
 5 component of such compensation pending final adjudication of these claims; (d) an injunction
 6 ordering Cocrysal to prepare a new Proxy Statement which discloses all material facts and are not
 7 false and misleading, and then submitting the Say on Pay proposal for shareholder reconsideration
 8 and voting; and (e) an injunction ordering the Company's Compensation Committee to consider the
 9 shareholders' votes on such a proposal into their compensation decisions. The 2018 Proxy states
 10 that the Compensation Committee considers all factors it deems relevant at the time of such grants,
 11 including the Company's performance during the most recent fiscal year. This action was timely
 12 commenced within three years of the date of the 2018 Proxy Statement and within one year from
 13 the time that Plaintiff discovered or reasonably could have discovered the facts upon which this
 14 complaint is based.

15
 16
 17 108. This cause of action seeks only declaratory and injunctive relief, not damages.

18 **COUNT II**

19 **(BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES)**

20 109. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing
 21 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 110. Each Defendant owed Cocrysal and its shareholders the highest duties of loyalty,
 23 honesty, candor and care in conducting their affairs.

24
 25 111. At a minimum, to discharge these duties, each Defendant should have exercised
 26 reasonable and prudent supervision over the governance, management, policies, practices, controls,
 27 procedures and financial affairs of the Company and to make sure that their own interests were

1 subservient to those of the Company. When significant wrongdoing arises, such as that occurred
2 here, the Board is required to initiate disciplinary action, which may include: “verbal warning,
3 written warning, suspension with or without pay, or termination of employment... Cocrysal
4 recognizes that there are certain types of employee problems that are serious enough to justify either
5 a suspension, or, in extreme situations, termination of employment[.]”

6 112. The Defendants also each owed a duty to ensure that at all times (i) corporate actions
7 were taken in furtherance of the Company’s interests and not the personal interests of its directors
8 and/or officers; (ii) the Company’s financial information was honestly reported; (iii) disclosures
9 were complete and accurate and did not omit material information necessary to make the
10 disclosures complete and accurate; (iv) proper accounting practices were in place; and (v) public
11 statements made by the Company were not false and misleading.
12

13 113. The Defendants should be required to remunerate Cocrysal for its damages and
14 disgorge any and all gains unjustly obtained at the expense of Cocrysal and its shareholders as a
15 result of Defendants’ breaches of their fiduciary duties.
16

17 114. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks on behalf of Cocrysal monetary damages, injunctive
18 remedies, and other forms of equitable relief.

19 COUNT III

20 (WASTE OF CORPORATE ASSETS)

21 115. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing
22 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

23 116. The Cocrysal Defendants breached their fiduciary duties and, thereby, caused the
24 Company to waste its assets, operate with a material weakness in its internal controls, and impair its
25 reputation and credibility for no legitimate business purpose, as a result of which Cocrysal has been
26 and continues to be substantially damaged.
27

117. Cocystal has been irreparably damaged by the foregoing misconduct, requiring it to expend material sums responding to and defending itself in the course of securities lawsuits, including an action brought by the SEC, which could result in material financial harm to the Company for its misconduct. Further, the public's trust in the integrity and credibility of Cocystal has been irreparably damaged by the scheme described herein. Had the Company's directors acted in a timely manner and made decisions in furtherance of the Company's interests rather than their own personal interests, and implemented and maintained an effective system of internal controls, these damages could have been prevented, or at least minimized

118. The Cocystal Defendants have bestowed upon themselves grossly excessive compensation that has no reasonable or legitimate basis, especially due to their violations of the federal securities laws, breaches of fiduciary duties, improper and unlawful control and supervision over the Company, management, policies, practices, controls and financial affairs, which has caused substantial damage to the Company and its shareholders.

COUNT IV

(AGAINST THE HONIG GROUP)

119. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

120. Each member of the Honig Group owed fiduciary duties to Cocystal as a controlling shareholder of the Company and was required to act in the best interests of the minority shareholders and not to exert control to seek an advantage for him- or herself to the detriment of the Company and minority shareholders.

121. Plaintiff was a minority shareholder of the Company at all relevant times herein.

122. The Honig Group owned a substantial proportion of the voting stock of the Company and, thereby, controlled the Company.

1 Cocrystal and its shareholders.

2 131. Cocrystal's lack of internal control and the material risk it is exposed to stem in
3 whole or in part, from the knowing, reckless, disloyal, and/or bad faith acts or omissions of the
4 Cocrystal Defendants.

5 132. Cocrystal has suffered significant and substantial injury as a direct result of the
6 Cocrystal Defendants' breaches of their fiduciary, common law and civil law duties as alleged
7 herein. Plaintiff, on behalf of the Company, seeks relief from the Cocrystal Defendants on the
8 theory of contribution and indemnity to the extent that Cocrystal is found liable for the Defendants'
9 violations of their fiduciary duties.
10

11 **COUNT VI**

12 **(DERIVATIVELY AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR AIDING AND ABETTING)**

13 133. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing
14 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

15 134. Each of the Defendants (other than nominal defendant Cocrystal) acted and is acting
16 with knowledge of or with disregard to the fact that the Defendants are in breach of their fiduciary
17 duties to Cocrystal and have participated in a conspiracy in breach of fiduciary duties.
18

19 135. In committing the wrongful acts alleged herein, each of the Defendants have
20 pursued, or joined in the pursuit of, a common course of conduct. They have acted in concert with
21 and conspired with one another in furtherance of their common plan or design. In addition to
22 pursuing the wrongful conduct that gives rise to their primary liability, the Defendants also aided
23 and abetted, and/or assisted, each other in breaching their respective duties.
24

25 136. The Defendants collectively and individually initiated a course of conduct that was
26 designed to and did violate the federal securities laws, authorize corporate actions to serve their own
27 personal interests rather than the interests of the Company and its shareholders, misrepresent
28

1 material facts about the Company, its financial condition and business prospects, prevent the
2 disclosure of material information necessary to make statements complete and accurate, and failed
3 to implement and maintain an adequate system of internal controls and corporate governance
4 practices.

5 137. The purpose and effect of the Defendants' conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or
6 common course of conduct was, among other things, to disguise the Defendants' violations of law,
7 including violations of the federal securities laws and breaches of fiduciary duty.
8

9 138. Each of the Defendants played a direct, necessary, and substantial part in the
10 conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct complained of herein.

11 139. Each of the Defendants aided and abetted and rendered substantial assistance in the
12 wrongs complained of herein. In taking such actions to substantially assist the commission of the
13 wrongdoing complained of herein, the Defendants acted with knowledge of the primary
14 wrongdoing, substantially assisted the accomplishment of that wrongdoing, and were aware of their
15 overall contributions to and furtherance of the wrongdoing.
16

17 **COUNT VII**

18 **(DERIVATIVELY AGAINST THE COCRYSTAL DEFENDANTS 19 FOR GROSS MISMANAGEMENT)**

20 140. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing
21 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 141. The Cocrysal Defendants had a duty to Cocrysal and its shareholders to prudently
23 supervise, manage and control the operations, business and internal controls of Cocrysal.

24 142. The Cocrysal Defendants, by their actions and by engaging in the wrongdoing
25 described herein, abandoned and abdicated their responsibilities and duties with regard to prudently
26 managing the business of Cocrysal in a manner consistent with the duties imposed upon them by
27

1 law. By committing the misconduct alleged herein, the Cocystal Defendants breached their duties
2 of good faith, due care, loyalty, diligence and candor in the management and administration of
3 Cocystal's affairs and in the use and preservation of Company assets.

4 143. During the course of the discharge of their duties, the Cocystal Defendants knew or
5 disregarded the unreasonable risks and losses associated with their misconduct, yet they breach their
6 duties to the Company. As a result, the Cocystal Defendants grossly mismanaged the Company.

7 144. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

8 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:
9

10 A. Declaring that the Plaintiff may maintain this action derivatively on behalf of
11 Cocystal and that Plaintiff is an adequate representative;

12 B. Declaring that the Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to Cocystal,
13 and/or aided and abetted the breach of their fiduciary duties as alleged herein;

14 C. Awarding money damages against all Defendants, jointly and severally, for the
15 losses and damages suffered as a result of the acts and transactions complained of herein.

16 D. Directing Defendants, jointly and severally, to account for all losses and/or damages
17 sustained by Cocystal by reason of the acts and omissions complained of herein;

18 E. Requiring the Defendants to remit to Cocystal all of their salaries and other
19 compensation received for the periods when they breached their duties;

20 F. Requiring Defendants to remit to Cocystal all of their salaries and other
21 compensation received for the periods when they breached their duties;

22 G. Ordering equitable and/or injunctive relief as permitted by law, equity, and statutory
23 provisions sued hereunder;

24 H. Awarding pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;

25 I. Awarding Plaintiff's attorneys' fees, expert fees, consultant fees, and other costs and
26

1 expenses; and

2 J. Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

3 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

4 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

5 DATED: November 1, 2019

6 BRESKIN JOHNSON TOWNSEND, PLLC

7 By: s/ Roger M. Townsend

8 Roger M. Townsend, WSBA #25525
9 1000 Second Avenue, Suite 3670
10 Seattle, WA 98104
11 Telephone: (206) 652-8660
12 Facsimile: (206) 652-8290
13 rtownsend@bjtlegal.com

14 WEISSLAW LLP

15 David C. Katz*

16 Mark D. Smilow*

17 1500 Broadway, Suite 1600
18 New York, New York 10036
19 Telephone: (212) 682-3025
20 Facsimile: (212) 682-3010

21 dkatz@weisslawllp.com

22 msmilow@weisslawllp.com

23 *Admission *pro hac vice* to be sought

24 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28